Powers to Zila Parishads

2710. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state ;

(a) whether some powers have been given to Zila Parishads to improve condition of rura areas of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of Zila Parishads, State and Territory-wise enjoying such powers;

(c) whether Government propose to make an increase in the powers of such Parishads in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (d) As per the provisions contained in the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, the Legislature of the States may, by law endow the Panchayats, including the Zila Parishads, with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayat at the appropriate level, subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, with respect to (a) the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice; and (b) the implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule.

Thus, it is for the State Legislatures to give more powers to Zila Parishads to improve condition of rural areas, as Panchayats is a State subject.

Migration from rural areas to Urban areas

2711.SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of people migrating, each year, from rural areas to urban ares in the country;

(b) the total number of such people having migrated to urban areas till date during the last three years;

(c) what steps Government would take to protect the economic interests of such under-priviledged/downtrodden people; and

(d) the average per capita income of such rural people as compared to the rural population for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) : (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL) : (a) and (b) As per 1981 census rural-urban migrants increased from 23.95 millions to 34.20 millions during the decade 1971 – 81. As per TCPO estimates, about 46.62 millions people were living in the slum areas of the country in 1991.

(c) The Government has taken various stept both preventive and curative to alleviate the economic conditions of the under-priviledged downtrodden people living in urban slums. Under preventive measures, the Government has launched several self-employment and wage-employment programmes in the rural areas for people below the poverty line.

Nehru Rojgar Yojana launched in 1989 has been designed to assist the unemployed under-employed youths in taking up emplo-ment ventures, creation of useful assests, and provision of Employment for persons involved in housing and building activities in the slim areas.

The scheme of Environmental Improvement of urban Slums (EIUS) is in operation since 1972 in all urban areas. The scheme envisages to provide minimum basic amenities/facilities like water supply, community baths, community latrines, sewer, storm water drains, widening and paving of existing lanes and provisions of street lighting. The scheme is a part of State Sector and a sum of Rs. 525 per capita is allocated by the Planning Commission under State Sector allocations.

Besides, the scheme of Urban Basic Service for the poor envisages child development provision of learning opportunities for women and children and community organisation for slum population inter-alia comprising of environmental sanitation, primary health, pre-school learning, vocational training and covergence of other social services at the slum level.